

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to further recite --wherein the inorganic filler is a swellable lamellar silicate--. New claim 21 has been added. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and for new claim 21 can be found, for example, at page 10, second and third full paragraphs of the present specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The inorganic filler recited in the claimed invention is described in the present specification on pages 9-10 and the heat-resistance imparting agents recited in the claimed invention are described in the present specification on page 15, lines 8-10. In view of the disclosure of the specification, it is clear that these two components are different from each other.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims should be read in light of the specification and given the broadest reasonable interpretation that is consistent with the interpretation that those of ordinary skill in the art would reach. When properly read in this light, one of ordinary skill in the art can reasonably ascertain the meaning and scope of the claim language as the claims are presently written.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. 5,648,433 (Scott) or U.S. 6,114,472 (Matsuki et al) each in view of EP 1199333 and further in view of U.S. 5,747,560 (Christiani et al).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest the present invention.

The present invention according to claim 1 is directed to a polyester resin composition comprising an inorganic filler, polyetherimide, and a polymer containing polyethylene naphthalate in a constituent unit thereof, wherein the inorganic filler is a swellable lamellar silicate. While Matsuki et al generally teaches clay and mica inorganic fillers as additives for the disclosed composition, neither of Matsuki et al nor Scott '433 specifically teach the use of a swellable, lamellar silicate. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to expect the excellent results obtained with the use of a swellable, lamellar silicate as an inorganic filler in the present invention.

Therefore, the cited art does not teach or suggest the present invention according to claim 1.

Further, claims 2-21 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 and §103 rejections, and allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/642,577**

ATTY DKT Q76401

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

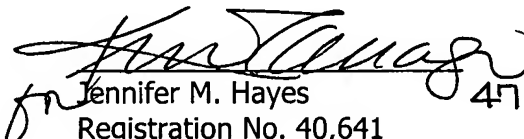
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